

Course Syllabus Fall 2011 Supernatural

*"All are scared
Scared of all
Black rooms are calling
To men in leather coats
White labs are cooking up the silver ghost"
- The Smashing Pumpkins, "Glass and the Ghost Children"*

*"I've this creeping
Suspicion that things here are not as they seem
Reassure me
Why do I feel as if I'm in too deep?"
- Dave Matthews Band, "The Stone"*

Welcome to Supernatural. Mark these words, for they shall be all you need to know about this course.

Contact information:

*Room 235
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In this course you WILL:

- READ*
- READ*
- And READ*
- Fail, if you choose not to read*
- Read (almost) every night*
- Take quizzes every day on the previous day's reading*
- Actually remember details about what you read*
- Take tests at the end of each unit*
- Watch films and think about them critically*
- Write about the books we read and films we watch in a critical way*

Units: Here's what you will be reading this semester

Short Story Unit

"The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs

"The Man Upstairs" by Ray Bradbury

"The Black Cat" by Edgar Allen Poe

"Ligeia" by Edgar Allen Poe

"In the Vault" by H.P. Lovecraft

"The Demon Lover" by Elizabeth Bowen

Frankenstein by Mary Shelly

Dracula by Bram Stoker

The Green Mile by Stephen King

Films:

Mary Shelly's Frankenstein (1994)

Frankenstein (1931)

Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992)

Twilight (2008)

The Green Mile (1999)

Rules: You are seniors and therefore I feel no need to enumerate any specific rules. Act like adults. Respect everyone else in the room. These are very general, but there are a "big four" set of issues that I will be adamant about enforcing **from day one until the end of the semester:**

- No talking while I or someone else is talking
- Cell phones (see below)
- Tardies (see below)
- Planners (see below)

Cell phones: The policy set forth in the Student Handbook will be strictly followed with no exceptions. Simply, if I see it, hear it, or am aware that it is being used, I will take it. I will turn it in to the office.

Tardy policy: If you are not inside the **threshold of the door** by the time the bell finishes ringing, you will be considered tardy. School policy dictates the punishments for the **fourth** and all subsequent times tardy, and the consequences for the first three in any of my classes are:

- One - Warning
- Two - 15 minute detention
- Three - 30 minute detention and a parent contact

Detentions must be served within 36 hours of the offense and may be served either before or after school in room 235.

Supplies: Each day you will bring these items to class

- The book that we are currently reading
- Paper to write on
- Something to write with
- Any and all handouts that you have been given (I won't say "you need a folder" but that's probably the best thing you could do)
- Your Student Planner

Bathroom use: You are given **ten** opportunities to use the restroom or get a drink per semester (barring emergencies). For each of these ten that you don't use at the end of the semester you will receive fifty extra credit points. I will keep track of the number times you leave the room, and oh, yes, without a planner do not bother even asking.

Assessment: Your final grade will be broken down this way

- 10% - 1st Quarterly Assessment
- 10% - 2nd Quarterly Assessment
- 10% - Participation
- 50% - Quizzes/Tests
- 20% - Writing, Projects, Etc.

Late work: Any homework that is not submitted or checked in at the time it is due, can be turned in any time before the **END OF THE FOLLOWING DAY** for **HALF CREDIT**. After this time no late work will be accepted and the assignment will be recorded as a zero.

Absences: If you miss a day for any reason, it is up to you to find out what you have to make up, and then, actually do it. Because for this class, you have a daily calendar, you should be prepared to take any reading quizzes on the reading assigned for the day you return.

Prep period: My prep periods are 3rd and 6th periods. Feel free to come by then before or after school, with proper permission, and talk about the class or anything else. I'll be happy to answer any questions during these hours; however do not stop by my room during any other hours to ask questions. None will be answered because I will not interrupt my classes for any reason.

Participation points: I will be giving everyone 30 participation points per week. . . providing you don't do anything to lose them. Each infraction of any of the following – as determined by me – will result in a five point deduction from your weekly participation points:

- Talking while I'm talking
- Putting your head down
- Not working on assigned work when given time
- Not knowing "where we are" when reading together as a class
- Anything insulting or offensive to another student in class (or teacher)
- Not having completed a homework assignment (*this in addition to late or no credit for the assignment*)
- Leaving anything in the classroom (with certain exceptions)

And Finally. . .

- **NOT BRINGING MATERIAL THAT IS NEEDED TO CLASS!!**

This includes all supplies listed above.

Participation points can be taken away at anytime with or without notification. (**READ:** If you do any of the above, expect that your points will be taken away, even if I don't tell you specifically.) Negative points (that is if you lose more than the given thirty points in one week) may be carried over to the following week or taken from a previous week.

And finally, even though we don't do much **formal** writing in this class I still have to mention. . .

Plagiarism: Don't do it. It is that simple. If you do try, I will catch you. I am able to tell the difference between something written by a high school author and something taken from a book or website. And I know all of the tricks, spelling something wrong, changing just a word or two, so again, just don't try it. Even if all that is taken from another source is just one sentence, it still counts! Repercussions for plagiarism are also detailed in the Student Handbook.